

2001 HIV/AIDS CARE SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOCUS GROUP SCRIPT

1) Introduction of facilitator/host/note taker

- thank hosting agency for co-sponsorship
- remind participants to help themselves to food/beverages
- group is scheduled to take 1.5 hours, may take less depending on response
- participants who stay the full 1.5 hours will receive \$20 at the end of the meeting
- Reimbursement for transportation and child care, if needed, is available
- Remind participants that they cannot participate in more than one focus group (i.e., since they are at this one, they cannot attend another one)

2) Overview of care services needs assessment process

- needs assessment mandated by receipt of federal Ryan White CARE Act \$ to ensure that the \$ are used to support appropriate services
- Planning Council works with Public Health – Seattle & King County and community agencies to assess these needs
- needs assessment includes interviews with and surveys of services providers, consumer surveys and focus groups
- the information we gather will be used to make funding decisions for HIV/AIDS services in upcoming years
- it will help the Planning Council examine if the HIV/AIDS care system is working (for consumers overall and for specific sub-populations of consumers)

3) Statement of confidentiality

- statements at this focus group will be treated as strictly confidential
- no names will be used in reporting the information collected from the group
- group will be taped for more effective transcription of statements - names will not be attached to any quotes
- assignment of individual names (use first names or initials only on name tags - can be real or made-up)

4) Ground rules

- speak in “I” sentences
- one person speaks at a time
- respect the opinions of everyone in the group
- talk about what’s working as well as what needs improvement
- can talk about services and specific agencies but not about specific people
- what is said in the room stays in the room
- everyone participates
- Any other ground rules the group wants to identify?

5) Introductions/icebreaker

- Ask each participant to introduce themselves (first name only)
- Icebreaker: tell us something good that happened to you this week

6) First, let's talk about when you first learned that you were HIV+.

- Where did you learn you were HIV positive? (in what city, in what type of setting – doctor's office, hospital, community clinic, etc.)
- What was the experience like?
- What worked for you? What could have been done differently?
- When you learned you were positive, were you informed about how to get medical care and other services?

7) Next we'd like to talk about your experiences in getting medical care for your HIV, at the time you first discovered you had HIV.

- How long after you discovered you were positive did it take for you to get medical care for your HIV?
- Tell us about your experience in accessing care for HIV. Was it difficult or easy to find a doctor?
- What worked for you about your care? What didn't?
- Were there any barriers you experienced in getting care? If so, what were they?

8) Now we'd like to ask you if you are currently getting medical care related to having HIV.

- If you are currently receiving care, where are you getting it?
- Are you satisfied with the kind of medical care you are getting? Why or why not?
- If you're not receiving care, why not?
- Do you know of any friends or acquaintances [from the specific population] who have HIV and are not getting medical care? Have they told you any reasons about why they are not getting care?

9) When you think about the kind of services that you need to stay in control of your health and your life, what kinds of services come to mind?

- These can be both medical services and other services that you're using, like case management.

10) As I mentioned earlier, we conducted a survey of many different kinds of people who are living with HIV in King County. I'd like to get your opinion on some of the information that (specific sub-population) gave us on the survey.

- (Facilitator refers to survey data about priorities, gaps and access barriers, highlighting major response differences.)
- Why do you think these differences exist?
- Do these answers represent the way you feel?

11) Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

12) Thanks and closing

- Have participants who are leaving sign for reimbursements